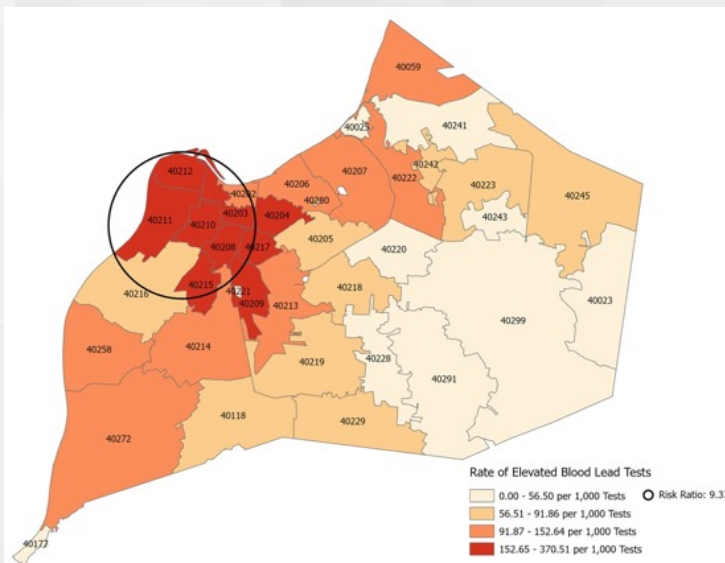


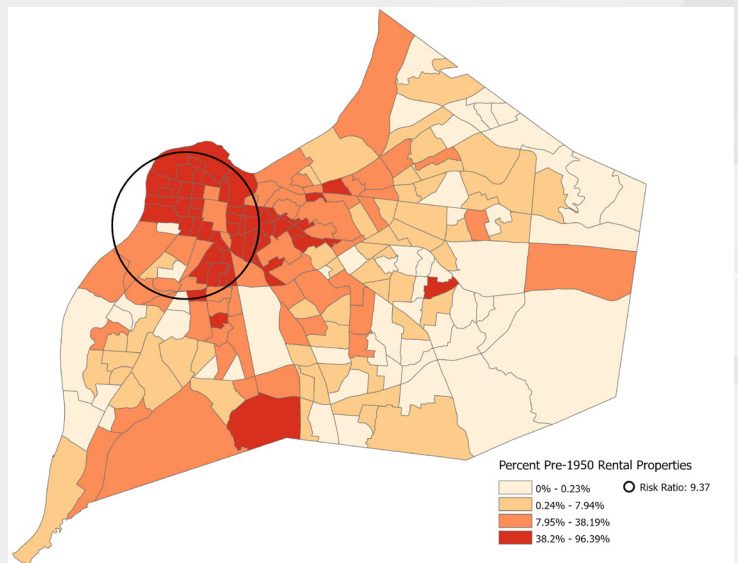
Proactively protecting residents from lead –

Addressing housing exposures to reduce negative impacts of lead

- **In Jefferson County, many young children are living in old housing stock and are at significantly higher risk for lead exposure from paint, dust, and soil.**
 - Lead poisoning occurs when residents inhale or ingest lead particles found in lead-containing paint, dust, soil, and drinking water. Because lead-based paint was banned nationally in 1978, housing built before this ban is considered to pose a higher risk of lead exposure for residents. This risk increases with the age of the unit.
 - Two-thirds (65%) of occupied rental housing units in Jefferson County were built prior to 1980. One in four (24%) occupied rental housing units were built before 1950, according to 2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates.¹
 - For children under 6 living in rental units, 70% live in units built before 1980, and 23% live in units built before 1950. This means nearly 18,000 children under 6 in Jefferson County occupy rental housing that has an elevated risk of lead exposure.¹
 - Children living in the northwest area of the county are at 9.37 times greater risk for lead poisoning than children in other areas of the county.²



Elevated Risk for Childhood Lead Poisoning by Jefferson County Zip Codes



Elevated Risk for Childhood Lead Poisoning by Pre-1950 Rental Housing in Jefferson County Census Tracts



- **We need to protect children from the lasting negative health impacts of lead exposure.**
 - From December 2005 through 2021, 9,823 children have had elevated blood-lead levels.² This likely underrepresents the total impact of lead on Louisville's children as funding for screening has decreased with a shift from universal to targeted screening, and many families do not have access to regular preventative care.
 - No amount of lead in one's blood is a safe amount. Even if lead doesn't reach an "elevated" level, any exposure to lead can still cause negative health impacts.³
 - Parents who were exposed to lead as a child, have had prolonged exposures as an adult, or are exposed during pregnancy can have lead in their blood stream, which creates intergenerational effects. Exposure to lead while pregnant increases the risk of damaging the fetus' brain, kidneys, and nervous system. Lead poisoning while pregnant can also lead to miscarriage, premature birth, and low birth weight.⁴
 - Exposure to lead before the age of six can impact development of a child's physical brain and mental processes, impede their hearing and speech, damage their nervous system, and stunt their growth.⁵
 - Long term health outcomes of individuals impacted by lead poisoning prior to age 6 include: impaired memory, decreased IQ and academic performance, impulsivity, hyperactivity, attention deficit, and other behavioral disorders.⁶
 - Lead exposure early in life has been shown to carry powerful negative impacts on health and well-being into adulthood, such as lowered educational attainment and income, increased rates of exposure to the carceral system, and a variety of adverse health conditions.⁷
- **The devastating impacts of lead exposure cannot be cured, but they can be easily prevented.**
 - The most effective measure to prevent lead poisoning is to test for and identify sources of lead and to remove the source before children or adults are exposed.⁸
 - The social cost of not effectively preventing lead exposure can be up to billions of dollars in foregone earnings and public spending on healthcare, special education, juvenile justice, and other social services.⁹
 - Every dollar invested into lead control yields a social return ranging from at least \$17 to as much as \$221, according to one peer-reviewed study.¹⁰
 - Cities with proactive inspection policies have reported prevalence of lead poisoning decreasing at twice the rate of those nearby that do not have proactive policies.¹¹



Key Elements of the Proposed Ordinance

- **All owners of pre-1978 rental housing units must register properties annually with Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness' (LMPHW) Lead-Safe Housing Registry.**
- **Owners must obtain an initial Lead-Hazard Risk Assessment from a state-certified inspector.**
 - o Pre-1950 units: within one (1) year of the ordinance going into effect
 - o 1950-1978 units: within two (2) years of the ordinance going into effect
- **After the initial inspection, a Lead-Hazard Screening will be required when:**
 - o There is a change in tenants
 - o OR every three years, whichever comes first.
- **If lead is detected in dust, paint, and/or soil, owners will need to address the hazard in an appropriate way, so that it cannot cause harm to the tenants.**
- **LMPHW will be able to exempt rental housing units from these requirements if they can prove permanent removal of lead in the unit.**
 - o Any work done to address lead hazards will be reported in registration and approved by a state-certified inspector.
- **Failure to register, comply with assessment, or comply with removal or remediation will be subject to escalating fines.**
- **Registration fees and fines will be used in part to provide services for tenants impacted by the presence of lead.**

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